

spring 1997 with the community Boy Scouts. Two town hall meetings were sponsored in November, one at Sunset Park, Borough Park, and the Bay Ridge Chinatown area and the other at the Sheepshead Bay and Bensonhurst neighborhood, to provide an opportunity for the communities to voice their concerns.

In recognition of its many contributions to the Brooklyn community, the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association received the 1996 Welcome Back to Brooklyn Award for Outstanding Civic Leadership and Economic Development in Brooklyn. This honor was presented to both BCA and the 1996 Nobel Prize winning scientist. In the past, this age old annual award has always been presented to distinguished individuals and celebrities; however this is the first time in history that an Asian organization received the prestigious honor. Furthermore, the Brooklyn Historical Society also honored BCA this year with the Brooklyn History Maker Award.

As we approach the 21st century, this Nation is becoming more ethnically and racially diverse. Any endeavor that maximizes the participation of immigrants into society is worthy of commendation. The Brooklyn Chinese-American Association's efforts to address the needs of the Asian population of Brooklyn deem it a great Point-of-Light not only for the people of Brooklyn, NY, but for all of America.

TRIBUTE TO THE CORAL GABLES SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL RUEDA KIDS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 1997

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my congratulations to the Coral Gables Senior High School Rueda Kids for their fantastic dancing abilities and their desire to keep our Hispanic heritage alive through their performances in Cuban salsa music—Rueda Casino. Their exceptional talent and dedication to this art has brought much happiness to all those who have been privileged enough to witness their dances.

The Gables Rueda Kids started only last year as an informal group and has since then received two awards from the U.S. Postal Service and won first prize and a special award at the Dade County Youth Fair in March. Among the group's future plan is to compete in a State competition to be held next spring and the member's participation in the Calle Ocho festival held yearly in Miami honoring their Cuban heritage.

The dancers are 13 students, 10 of whom were born in Cuba, 2 of Cuban parents and 1 that is originally from Honduras. Michael Alonso, Kathleen Andino, Yurlaimes Caballero, Anyer Cruz, Niviys Diaz, David Espinosa, Yulaidy Lopez, Eddy Gamayo, Evelyn Gonzalez, David Hernandez, Jesus Moreno, Carlos Osle and Alicia Reyes-Quesada, who is also their teacher, compose the group. All 13 demonstrate their love for salsa music through their dances and prove that America's teenagers are aware of their cultural background and display it with pride.

I commend them not only on their desire to keep their Hispanic heritage alive, but also in their spirit and commitment to share it with everyone else.

KIDS, POVERTY, AND THE NEED FOR HEALTH INSURANCE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, this Congress must stop the rise in poverty among the Nation's children and—a related issue—stop the rise in the number of children who are uninsured.

Two reports in December point to the magnitude of the problem—and to some of the solutions.

On December 11, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reported that nearly 2.7 million low-income children were eligible for Medicaid, but went without health insurance for all of 1994. In addition, 2.1 million children who qualified for Medicaid, but were not enrolled, had some form of private insurance at some point in the year, but either were uninsured for part of the year or had inadequate private coverage that could have been supplemented by Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, surely this Congress can find ways to make the Medicaid program more usable and more automatic for the families of needy children. If Medicaid eligible children could be brought into the program, the rolls of the Nation's 10 million uninsured children could be easily and quickly reduced by 27 percent.

In a second report, Columbia University's National Center for Children in Poverty found that nearly half—45 percent—of young children—those under 6—were in poverty or near poverty. Poverty among children = bad health and a lifetime of social and personal problems. As the report said: "Young children in poverty are more likely to: be born at a low birthweight; be hospitalized during childhood; die in infancy or early childhood; receive lower quality medical care;" along with numerous other problems. The list of problems facing our Nation's children of poverty could be addressed in some part if their parents had decent health insurance and could at least ensure that their children were not disadvantaged for life by an unhealthy start.

We need health insurance for kids, so that their parents can ensure a better life for them—and for our Nation's future citizens.

TRUTH IN BUDGETING ACT

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Truth in Budgeting Act and commend its sponsor, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. SHUSTER] for bringing this important measure to the floor.

This legislation transfers the Highway, Aviation, Inland Waterways and Harbor Maintenance Trust Funds off budget and provides that trust fund balances will not be used in calculations by the Congressional Budget Office regarding the Federal budget.

This bill guarantees that transportation taxes such as the taxes that our constituents pay when they fill up their gas tank or when they buy an airline ticket are used for their stated purpose, to improve and reinforce our country's transportation infrastructure.

Currently cash balances in the transportation trust fund total \$30 billion. It is wrong that this funding is being used to mask portions of our Nation's budget deficit as opposed to upgrading our country's transportation infrastructure. This bill is a positive step forward ensuring that our highways and airports get the help they need and according to the Congressional Budget Office is an action that is budget neutral.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to support this worthy legislation.

THE MEDICARE MAMMOGRAPHY ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 1997

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, the facts on breast cancer are well known: 44,000 women die from the disease every year in this Nation. The tragedy of this loss is escalated by the fact that some and perhaps even many of these deaths are preventable.

In short, mammography can and does save lives. As any doctor will tell you, the earlier you find breast cancer, the less likely it is to be fatal. A mammogram can find 85 to 90 percent of breast cancer tumors in women as much as 2 years before they can be detected by self-examination. Routine screening for breast cancer is therefore vitally important, especially for older women. Both the American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute recommend annual mammograms for women over 50 years of age.

Unfortunately, Medicare only covers mammograms every other year. Furthermore, the 20 percent copayment for the service and the annual Medicare deductible deter many women from getting the screening. The Medicare Mammography Enhancement Act would eliminate these barriers to women receiving life-saving mammograms. The legislation would require Medicare to cover annual mammograms and would waive the 20-percent copayment and any deductible costs for the screening.

Mr. Speaker, a few years ago many of us in Congress fought to make sure Medicare included coverage for at least biannual mammograms. We argued that it made good sense for Medicare to cover a test that could save so many lives at such little expense. The same can be said of this legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to support this effort to save lives.